

DNR SPECIAL FUNDS WORKGROUP BILLS

SB452/HB538 – State Boat Act – Waterway Improvement Fund – Authorized Uses

These bills repeal the requirements that DNR deposit \$225,000 of its vessel excise tax revenues in the general fund, that DNR's use of funds collected from the vessel excise tax for enforcement of the State Boat Act be limited to \$350,000 annually, and that appropriations from the WIF for marine operations of NRP be limited to \$1 million annually. For the support of NRP marine operations, DNR may propose an appropriation from WIF up to \$1.7 million in fiscal 2006 and \$2 million annually thereafter.

SB640/HB1258 – Natural Resources – Special Funds and Accounts – Administrative Costs

These bills explicitly authorize DNR, unless otherwise authorized by statute, to use money in a fund or account established under the Natural Resources Article for administrative expenses directly related to the purposes of the fund or account. DNR must submit any changes in its methodology to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee for review and comment prior to implementing the change. The bills also modify several statutory provisions within the Natural Resources Article to authorize the use of various special funds and account for administrative expense.

HB1414 – Department of Natural Resources – Administration of Special Funds and Accounts

HB1414 updates statutory language governing DNR's various special funds and accounts so as to be consistent with current legislative drafting guidelines. The bill makes several technical changes regarding the management of these funds and accounts. In addition, the bill requires that specified special funds within DNR, including those earning federal dollars and the Deep Creek, Somers Cove and Fair Hill accounts, accrue their earned investment income.